

THE HAWAIIAN GAZETTE

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TUESDAY MORNING,
MAY 14, 1918.

THE ADVERTISER'S SEMI-WEEKLY

Sugar Prices

WHEN we speak of a commodity as being dear in price, we are thinking of it in relative terms, says "Facts About Sugar." An article seems to us expensive if we are asked to pay more for it than we have been accustomed to pay in the past or if it has advanced in price more rapidly than other commodities of general use. Potatoes at three dollars a bushel are costly in our estimation because we have been accustomed to obtaining the same quantity for half this amount of money. If we had been in the habit of paying four or five dollars a bushel for a series of years three-dollar potatoes would be considered cheap. If the butcher doubles his charge for bacon while other meats are advanced only ten or fifteen percent we hold that the cost of bacon is unduly high because its customary relationship to other prices has been disturbed.

In considering the price of sugar it is instructive therefore to take note of the extent to which its cost to the consumer has been enhanced in an era when the prices of practically all foodstuffs have advanced rapidly.

From 1914 to the beginning of the present year the price of sugar had increased approximately forty-eight percent. During the same period the price of wheat advanced over 150 percent, of corn, beans and various other farm crops 200 percent and of cotton nearly 300 percent. Throughout the whole list of farm crops and food products price increases from 100 to 300 percent have been the rule.

It is evident that with these advances ranging from two to six times as great as that which has taken place in sugar the latter is selling out of line with other products of the soil and cannot hold its own in competition with them for the cultivator's attention. In 1914 a bushel of wheat would purchase twenty pounds of raw sugar or sixteen pounds of refined. Today it will pay for thirty-seven pounds of raw sugar or thirty pounds of refined. Four years ago a bale of cotton sold for only enough to buy half a ton of raw sugar. Now the sugar planter must offer a full ton of his product in exchange for a single bale of cotton.

Such illustrations could be multiplied indefinitely. They serve to show that sugar has been left far behind by its competitors for the farmer's consideration in the race to higher price levels. As was pointed out in a recent article in these columns sugar is today almost the cheapest of essential food commodities, whether we measure it by its relation to the price advances that have taken place in all these products or by the number of units of energy that a given sum will purchase in the form of these various foods.

Comparisons showing that one or even three or four food commodities of ordinary use have advanced more rapidly than sugar are not in themselves convincing evidence that the latter is too cheap. But when we find, as is the case, that the general average of food prices as well as the cost of individual products has risen much further proportionately than has sugar it affords a clear indication that one of four possible conditions prevails: (1) that the cost of producing sugar has not increased proportionately with the cost of these other articles, (2) that sugar was selling at too high a price at the beginning of the period selected for comparison, (3) that an oversupply prevails in the case of sugar, or (4) that the present price of sugar is unduly low.

It may be said, however, that in none of these explanations is the true answer to be found. The present low price is due entirely to the agreements formulated under the direction of the food administration and subscribed to by the various producers which impose an arbitrary limitation at a level far below that which would prevail under the unrestricted operation of the law of supply and demand. What the price would be today under the untrammelled working of this economic principle it is impossible to estimate with any exactness, but it is perfectly clear to those who are familiar with actual conditions in the sugar trade that it would be very much above the present established price level.

That some restriction upon prices and profits is justified under the abnormal conditions now prevailing we are prepared to admit. But it is evident that in the case of a product of general use and necessity such restrictions should not depress the price below the figure necessary for the maintenance of a full normal output. In other words, the price so established must be sufficient to enable the producer to operate at a reasonable profit, taking into account the great advance in cost of production. Not only that, but it must be sufficient to compare not altogether unfavorably with the inducements offered by other crops to which the producers' lands and location are equally well adapted. By any of these tests it is evident that a material advance should be allowed in the price established to govern the sale of sugar.

W. S. S.

War-mad and Proud of It

"DO you know what they say in San Francisco about Hawaii?" asked a San Franciscan yesterday. "They say Hawaii has gone war-mad."

"And do you know what they say about San Francisco in New York?" countered a Honolulu. "They say San Francisco is still asleep and hasn't yet awakened to the fact that the Nation is at war and in a death grapple with a mortal foe."

Hawaii is war-mad, and we're proud of it. We are as awake to the situation, now, as the East has been for many months.

The Week In the War

EVER the Germans are forced to continue their efforts on the Western front because their positions are otherwise untenable, as many military experts believe, and because the holding back of a counter offensive by the Allies keeps their plans in the dark and, perforce, keeps von Hindenburg busy, or they believe that they are winning. Only one of these two reasons suffices to explain the course which the enemy is pursuing.

A thrust here today, another thrust in another direction tomorrow, each in turn parried by the Allies, has been the story of the fighting on the Western front for the past week. It is difficult to see that the enemy has accomplished anything. Positions are but little changed and such changes as have occurred appear to be in the nature of improvement in the positions of the Allies.

Beyond bombardments which appeared to be in preparation for new offensives there was little enemy activity on Monday. The Allied artillery fire in reply was so well directed that no strong offensive infantry movements followed the German barrage. On Tuesday there was less activity and a heavy rain was falling over a great part of the front.

On Wednesday came the effort to turn the flank of the British to the southwest of Ypres. At some points this drive was able to penetrate the front lines but later in the week those positions were generally recovered. Thursday was marked by a continuance of this effort but all of their attempts were smashed by the Allies. At only one point was the thrust in any way successful and there the success was slight. Meantime the British and French conducted raids upon the enemy and made attacks along restricted fronts which appear to have been generally attended by a considerable degree of success.

On Friday the attempted Hun offensive completely lost its momentum and some ground was given back to the Allies. On Saturday, as on Friday, most of the engagements were of a local nature.

Early in the week there seemed to be indications that the expected Austro-German offensive against the Italian front was about to be launched. Those expectations have not been realized. The emperor of the Dual Empire and his military leaders had gone to the front, there were heavy bombardments reported but since then no general engagement has been reported from that theater of war.

In the reports there are to be seen indications that the United States' part in the fighting is steadily growing in importance but there is nothing to indicate that the entire overseas force is now in the firing line and there is much to indicate that large numbers of them are being retained in reserve force that will be used when General Foch is ready to start the Allies' counter offensive.

There is no doubt that the Teutons are still taking much satisfaction and securing a considerable gratification over their successes in "peace making" with the Bolshevik Russians, with the Ukraine, Finland and Rumania and are taking full advantage of what they have secured there and of what they have done to Belgium and to the part of France and that part of Italy which they occupy to intimidate the smaller neutral nations, especially Holland. Hardly have the Dutch, with reluctance, yielded a great part of their neutrality than yet other demands for sacrifices are made upon them and they are asked to supply their more powerful neighbor with food stuffs. The Teuton idea of neutrality seems to be friendship, supplies and sustenance from the weaker nations.

Upon Russia, as well, other demands have been made which, if granted, would make that country little more than a German Colony. And Russia seems to be in no position to resist. These courses merely go to show to the world what would be the course that a victorious Germany would pursue with the rest of the world after forcing upon them a "made in Germany" peace.

Against the United States, France, Britain and Italy, there has been nothing to lend the enemy any comfort from the week's fighting. In the bullying of countries which grovel before the cloven hoof or are all but on their knees Prussianism is doing much better, according to Prussian ideas and ideals.

W. S. S.

Both On Trial

LINK MCANDLESS stands pat in his defiance of the food commission and refuses to abide by its rulings made in the interest of the public. He has evolved a theory that the food commission and the Hawaii representative of the federal food administration are in a conspiracy to kill the local rice industry.

In the meanwhile, however, he is only a fellow-defendant in the eyes of the public. The community believes that he has forced an issue that put the food commission on trial as much as it does Mcandleless.

It is up to the commission to act, to take the only step possible in its own vindication, and that is the prompt arrest of an open violator of the law, which should respect neither millions nor political influence.

W. S. S.

BREVITIES

The Pan-Pacific Union has been invited to attend the Ad Club lunch Wednesday and take charge of the affair. Every club in town has been invited to send delegates.

Takinoka, a Japanese fisherman, was arrested yesterday for leaving the harbor in his sampan after hours. Harbor-master Foster swore to the complaint under which Takinoka was arrested.

William H. Hutton has been retained by the liquor commission to remain in office for another year as license inspector, it being the belief of the commission that Hutton can make himself useful running down blind pigs.

Tests which have been made by the local internal revenue office show that samples of denatured alcohol, manufactured by the Wailuku Agricultural Co., promise success for this new industry, according to Collector Howard Hathaway.

Having discontinued its original action, the city has filed a new suit in circuit court seeking to condemn the Mollili quarry. The new suit seeks to secure the possession of twenty two in stead of thirteen acres, including the faces of the Honolulu Construction and Draying Co. and Wilson quarries.

A great demand exists with the government for typists and stenographers, and everyone wishing to apply for positions in government service is requested to see J. W. Short, district secretary, at the customs house, who will arrange for examinations to be held as soon as four or five applicants can be secured.

Grand jury and trial jury work may have to be suspended in the circuit courts unless the board of supervisors grants an emergency appropriation. No action has yet been taken on the recommendations of A. M. Brown, city attorney, for funds to allow the court work to continue until July 1, but no action has yet been taken by the board. He asked for \$5000 to finance the work.

The Hawaiian Promotion Committee moved its office furniture and other paraphernalia to the basement of the Young Hotel yesterday and the new quarters are even now taking on an air of attractiveness which will surpass the old quarters. Carpenters are getting the former quarters of the promotion committee in readiness for occupancy by the Toyo Kaisha Kaisha Co. June 1.

Pan-Pacific Day at the Ad Club will be Wednesday, May 22. The Pan-Pacific Union will provide the program and with the permission of the Ad Club, is inviting all of the city clubs to have delegates present. Several of the leading business men of the city will speak on the Pan-Pacific movement as a part of the get-together idea. There will be no Pan-Pacific luncheon this Friday as the efforts of the organization will be centered on the big get-together luncheon of Wednesday of next week.

W. S. S.

Sight Is Restored To Anzac Orator Tom Skeyhill

Simple Operation Banishes Blindness of Soldier Hero Who Was Wounded At Gallipoli and Was Here Recently

Signaller Tom Skeyhill's eyesight has been restored.

The soldier orator, whose eloquent descriptions of the Gallipoli battles thrilled Honolulu audiences, and whose appeals for the Red Cross brought thousands of dollars to the fund, is once more able to see the world which was blotted out when he battled with the Turks on Gallipoli's heights.

Despatches have reached Honolulu from Washington that the restoration of his eyesight was accomplished by a simple operation on the vertebrae of his neck.

Examination of Skeyhill, who has been delivering hundreds of lectures since he left Honolulu in the interests of the Third Liberty Loan, showed a vertebrae at the head of the spinal column slightly out of position and a correction was easily made with the result that the blindness was dispelled. Physicians explained that the displaced vertebrae had impaired functions of nerves indispensable to sight.

Due to overwork Skeyhill had a nervous collapse on April 9 after he had talked to three Liberty Loan meetings in one day.

Signaller Skeyhill arrived in Honolulu, accompanied by Sergeant Major Robert Carney and Private Cyril Povie, all Anzacs, unheralded, but within twenty four hours he made a host of friends. The British Club was behind him in preparing for addresses and after his first talk, all Honolulu was with him. His oratory was exceptional and he held his audiences spellbound. Prior to his departure for the Coast he was the guest of honor at a reception given at the home of Former Governor and Mrs. George R. Carter.

Fred Harrison, president of the British Club, when informed last evening of Skeyhill's good fortune, said nothing has pleased him so much during the progress of the war as to know that Skeyhill can see.

"I want him to come back to Honolulu and see all the people whom he met then, and see all our beautiful scenery," said Mr. Harrison. "He seemed to enjoy everything even without seeing it at all, and I know he will be the most pleased boy that ever visited the Paradise of the Pacific."

Major Clark lived up to the traditions of the army, exercising resourcefulness in the most critical hour of his peril, and exemplifying the American officer's idea of preserving a comrade's life.

PERSONALS

John Hind of Kohala is a guest at the Young Hotel.

R. H. and L. C. Palmer of Waileku are guests at the Young Hotel.

H. M. Gosmer, a business man of Maui, is a guest at the Young Hotel.

R. von Tempaky was an arrival on the Mauna Kea yesterday from Maui. W. E. Devereux has returned from a business trip to Maui on the Mauna Kea.

Mrs. Eva Bowen and Mrs. W. L. Eaton, are leaving by the Niagara for the States.

Colonel Howard Hathaway left for Hilo on the Mauna Kea yesterday afternoon.

Superintendent of Public Works Hobbs has returned from a business trip to Hawaii.

E. F. Bishop returned from a short business trip to Hilo on the Mauna Kea.

W. T. Hawline was a returning passenger on the Mauna Kea yesterday from Hawaii.

Ben Vickers of Hilo arrived on the Mauna Kea yesterday. He is registered at the Young Hotel.

The Mines J. and A. Wedehouse arrived from Maui yesterday and are registered at the Young Hotel.

Dr. D. E. Hahn, from Seoul, Korea, has rooms at the Moana and will sail for his home in a couple of weeks.

General Russell, Priest and Winney Lewis have returned to the Moana after a very pleasant trip to the Volcano.

Robert Hind, gentleman of Kona, was an arrival on the Mauna Kea yesterday. He is a guest at the Young Hotel.

Lieut. Colonel Oren, Fourth Cavalry, has been detached from his regiment and detailed to duty at department headquarters.

Robert W. Breckons returned from Hawaii yesterday after spending a week in Hilo, where he had been engaged in legal business.

Perry E. Narten and Miss Bertha Narten, tourists from Cleveland, Ohio, who arrived on the Columbia yesterday are guests at the Young Hotel.

Capt. H. Gooding Field and Maj. C. R. Cooper returned from Hawaii on the Mauna Kea yesterday. They had been investigating draft conditions on the Big Island.

Supervisor Julian Yates of Hawaii appointed to give "first aid" to the territorial legislature on matters concerning the Island of Hawaii, arrived on the Mauna Kea yesterday.

Mr. and Mrs. Carlton McCarthy, of Dubuque, Iowa, are registered at the Moana. Mr. McCarthy is well pleased with his visit to Honolulu and has decided to join the Come Back Club.

R. E. Wright, Manila; Edw. L. Elledge, San Francisco; Dr. and Mrs. A. S. Green, San Francisco, and Mr. and Mrs. Williams, both of family, who arrived on the S. S. Columbia yesterday morning, are registered at the Moana.

Among passengers on the Columbia yesterday from San Francisco were Mr. and Mrs. L. H. Daingerfield. Mr. Daingerfield is the new meteorologist of the weather bureau who is to relieve Andrew M. Hamrick.

C. C. Pooley, who left Wednesday for a visit to the Volcano, returned yesterday, on the Mauna Kea. Mr. Pooley came a sick man but has so well improved that he contemplates returning home sooner than he expected. He has a suite at the Moana.

W. S. S.

CHARIOTS READY FOR FAIR EVENTS

Odd Two-Wheeled Vehicles Prepared and Sent To Schofield For Cavalry Try-Out

For the two sensational Roman chariot races which will be staged by boys of the Fourth Cavalry at the Territorial Fair next month, the odd, two-wheeled vehicles in which the drivers ride precariously, have been built by the Quartermaster Department and will be sent to Schofield this week, where cavalry steeds are to be broken to harness and trained for the event.

Col. R. McCa. Schofield, as chairman of the Army and Navy committee, has taken personal interest in the construction of the chariots and has seen to it that they are built strictly according to Roman Coliseum rules. They are solid and heavy and made to withstand the roughest kind of going, but behind the swiftness racing horses they present a graceful, streamer line effect that rivals that of the most elaborate automobiles.

In Patriotic Colors

For the fair they will be painted in red, white and blue. Just at present they are in solid color, because they must undergo a period of hard usage at Schofield the next three weeks, while the cavalrymen are instructing their equines in the unusual work of hauling, instead of carrying their burdens.

Capt. W. B. McLaurin, who is to have charge of cavalry demonstrations and contests at the fair, says that probably none of the horses to be used in the chariot races have ever been driven before.

Special Harness For Races

Yet in the races special harness, being made under Colonel Schofield's direction, will be used. It is the least harness that could possibly be employed and, like the chariot, must conform to Roman styles, consisting of little more than broad trugs, a light bridle, and one line for each of the three horses. The trio of steeds will run abreast.

The chariot race is to be held as a part of the big afternoon program arranged by the Army & Navy athletic committee for Kamehameha Day, and again on Friday, June 14. It will come as a climax to an afternoon of cavalry demonstrations and races on Kamehameha Day, and again as the climax to a series of spectacular military features Friday afternoon.

HOMESTEADERS TO GET SQUARE DEAL

The Waialeale Homesteaders League on the Island of Hawaii and others interested in homesteading on the Big Island see hopeful signs in Governor McCarthy's announcement concerning what his policy will be toward the Territory's land problem, and the belief in Hilo, based on what the Governor has said, is that the Waialeale lands are at length to be opened soon. Because of the opposition of the administration of homesteading, the production of sugar from the Waialeale lands from which homesteaders have been excluded after surveys had been made has fallen steadily. Lacking assurance that new leases would be granted, the plantation has permitted one big area after another to go out of cultivation, with the result that the sugar production has been dropping steadily.

Metzger Gives Views

Judge Delbert E. Metzger, who has been nominated Territorial treasurer by Governor McCarthy, and who is president of the Waialeale Homesteaders League, expressed the belief that homesteaders are about to have their innings.

"I'm afraid we will not make a very good showing at first," Judge Metzger is quoted as saying by the Hilo Tribune. "Nobody could, and why is one of the things that should be known."

Land Running Down

"For the past several years the plantation has been letting the land run down. Last year the crop was a little under 15,000 tons. It will surprise me greatly if it is much more than 9,000 tons this year. Next year it can't possibly be more than 7,000."

"You can't particularly blame the plantation. The administration has kept it dangling on tender-hooks, hoping it was going to get a renewal of its lease, but not daring to invest anything on it. To my mind it is little short of criminal to hold out false encouragement of that sort—vague, indefinite assurances of sympathy that isn't worth anything, but sounds big with promise. If the plantation had known two years ago just where it stood, it could have cleaned up with much greater profit both to itself and to those who will come after it."

Will Get Black Eye

"Well, the result is that homesteading is going to get a black eye. If the lease were to be resumed tonight and the plantation were to start tomorrow cultivating the land to the limit of its productivity, it couldn't as I said do better than 9,000 tons this year and 7,000 next year. The homesteaders, naturally, will do a little worse, maybe 5,000 tons the first year. Then everybody will hold up his hands and exclaim: 'Ten thousand tons short! Well didn't we tell you!'"

"Eventually, the homesteader will do better than the plantation. I suppose you know that ninety percent of Waialeale is under sub-lease to small contractors now. Between the small contractor and the homesteader there is little difference, except that the homesteader will likely get more money for his cane than the contractor is getting now, or know the reason why."

"But even suppose the homesteader was less efficient than the plantation—which nobody who has studied the situation dispassionately admits—Hilo could well afford to have it up. What the homesteaders receive is what stays in the town and helps to build it up. What the plantation earns, except for the minority holdings owned locally, goes to Honolulu and the British Isles. It never does Hilo or the Big Island one cent's worth of good."

"I consider the opening of the Waialeale lands the biggest thing for Hilo that ever happened."

W. S. S.

RED CROSS RESULTS PLEASE A. L. CASTLE

"Our Red Cross drive exceeded all our expectations," said A. L. Castle, secretary of the local Red Cross yesterday. "Hawaii led its division in the first Red Cross drive, and from the showing we have made, I expect it to lead the Second Drive as well. There was wonderful work done on Oahu. Much of the credit for this is due to Mr. James Bath, treasurer of the drive commission, who was responsible for planning much of the machinery which worked so smoothly."

Mr. Castle added that there would be a great need for all the money collected, as the increasing cost of raw materials for bandages, garments, and all other Red Cross supplies is a great handicap to the work here.

No new reports have yet been received from the other islands, and the figures stand at \$607,000. When the full reports come there is little doubt that the quota will be exceeded by over \$200,000.

W. S. S.

PRIZE FOR BIG LEAGUER WHO SELLS MOST BONDS

NEW YORK, April 20—Liberty Loan Bond selling will be pushed at each National and American League baseball game until the national drive terminates in May. It was announced here that each player who sells a fifty dollar bond at a major league game will be credited with one point and the player who scores the highest number of points will be awarded a prize by the loan committee of the second Federal Reserve district.

W. S. S.

A GOOD RULE FOR THE HOME.

Make it a rule of your home to always keep on hand a bottle of Chamberlain's Colic and Diarrhoea Remedy as a safeguard against bowel complaints. It always cures promptly and no household is safe without it. For sale by all dealers. Benson, Smith & Co., Ltd., agents for Hawaii.—Advt.

DR. SCHURMANN'S BOOK SEIZED BY FEDERAL OFFICERS

Eight Hundred Copies of Notorious Volume Endorsed By Pinkham Are Taken

RAID INCITED BY VIGILANCE CORPS

"The War As Seen Thru German Eyes" Long Under Investigation By Authorities

Eight hundred copies of Dr. F. Schurmann's notorious book, "The War As Seen Thru German Eyes," which reached this country at the hands of Governor Pinkham, are held in the hands of federal officers here following a raid made on the Schurmann premises at Alaka and Beretania Streets. The fact that the raid was made has only just now become public though it was conducted a week or more ago after urgent complaints had been made to the United States district attorney.

The raid grew out of action taken by the Hawaiian Vigilance corps after it had been informed by the naval intelligence department that the book was being circulated in Honolulu. Former Governors Carter and Frear, on behalf of the Vigilance Corps, presented the matter to the United States attorney and demanded that action to suppress the volume be taken.

It is understood that the naval intelligence department had learned that while the book was not being openly circulated or sold, it was being read widely. It was said that callers at the Schurmann home were given copies to read.

United States District Attorney Huber confirmed the fact last night that the raid had been made. He said the questions in connection with the volume had been investigated by his office some time ago and that a copy of it had been submitted to Washington with the result that it had been held by the federal authorities at Washington that no law was violated by the publication of the volume. The district attorney also said that when the United States entered the war, Doctor Schurmann had offered to turn over to the federal authorities all copies of the book in his possession.

W. S. S.

Fibre and Products Company Sells Patents To Hamilton

Hundred and Thirty Thousand Dollar Deal Closed—Purchaser Will Establish Plant in Manila For Handling of Coccoanut Fibre

A \$130,000 deal was consummated here yesterday, when the Fibre and Products Company of Honolulu sold its right and title to the Rothchilds coconut husking and fibre manufacturing machinery, which was controlled by the Philippine interests here and Benjamin Z. Rothchild, inventor of the machinery, to C. W. Hamilton president of the Bukidnon Corporation.

This sale yesterday includes the patents, machinery and assets of the fibre company. Cash on hand, accounts receivable and the premises of the company on Liliha Street are not included in the sale.

This patent, which is the creation of Mr. Rothchild after years of experiment, is used for the converting of coconut husks into matting, bagging and other similar textiles. Patents are now pending in practically all important countries in the world.

Mr. Hamilton, who is the owner of two shipyards, is also the head of a large bridgebuilding concern and is prominent in large financial affairs in the States. He will ship this machinery immediately to Manila, where he will establish a large plant for the handling of coconut husk. Mr. Hamilton is also negotiating the purchase of some small steamers to be sent to Philippine waters.

Mr. Rothchild came here about three years ago and started in a small way to demonstrate the practicability of his invention. Heretofore no use was ever made of coconut husks and Mr. Rothchild was firm in his belief that this tough fibre could be turned to commercial uses, if a shredding machine, simply operated, could be invented. The result of his convictions along these lines were realized yesterday when this sale was closed.

W. S. S.

HOPE OF FINDING SOLDIERS GIVEN UP

No Trace of Canoe Or Men Lost With It Found During Day of Careful Search

All hopes of finding any trace of Sergeant Cummings and Private Gravett were abandoned last night and it is believed that the young men, who in company with George Althorn, were capsized in a small skiff off Diamond Head Thursday night, have perished. Sampans and government boats have been searching the waters in the neighborhood of where the young men were Thursday night without success. No trace of the boat even has been found.

George Althorn, the only survivor of the party which went on this boating excursion Thursday night, is confined to his home and is still very weak and thoroughly exhausted from the ordeal of having been four hours in the water battling against the strong currents for his life.